

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06  
EUR-12 /071 W  
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R 311713Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6629  
INFO AMEMBASSY ACCRA  
AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN  
AMEMBASSY BAMAKO  
AMEMBASSY DAKAR  
AMEMBASSY LAGOS  
AMEMBASSY LOME  
AMEMBASSY MONROVIA  
AMEMBASSY NIAMEY  
AMEMBASSY PARIS

CONFIDENTIAL OUAGADOUGOU 1432

LAGOS AND MONROVIA FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY MOOSE

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINT, UV  
SUBJ: CANDIDATES FOR PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS

REF: OUAGADOUGOU 1405 (NOTAL)

1. WITHOUT FANFARE, PRESIDENT LAMIZANA REGISTERED  
YESTERDAY AS A CANDIDATE FOR THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS  
WHICH WILL TAKE PLACE ON MAY 14. HE MADE NO PUBLIC  
ANNOUNCEMENT, AND HIS DECISION BECAME KNOWN ONLY AT MIDNIGHT  
MARCH 30 WHEN THE MINISTER OF INTERIOR REVEALED TO  
THE PRESS AND RADIO THE NAMES OF THE FOUR CANDIDATES  
WHOSE NAMES HAD BEEN REGISTERED IN HIS MINISTRY BEFORE  
THE DEADLINE.

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2. THE OTHER CANDIDATES ARE:  
A. PROFESSOR JOSEPH KI-ZERBO, SECRETARY GENERAL OF  
THE SLIGHTLY LEFTIST UPV (UNION PROGRESSISTE VOLTAIQUE) WHO WAS  
REGISTERED AS THE CANDIDATE OF THE UPV. KI-ZERBO IS A  
WELL-KNOWN INTELLECTUAL WHO REPRESENTS UPPER  
VOLTA ON THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF UNESCO AND HAS

PARTICIPATED IN MEETINGS OF THE CLUB OF ROME.  
AS A HISTORIAN, HE IS WELL-KNOWN THROUGHOUT THE WORLD, AND  
IS PRESENTLY ENGAGED IN COORDINATING A COMPREHENSIVE  
HISTORY OF AFRICA UNDER UNESCO AUSPICES. HE IS A CHRISTIAN  
AND COMES FROM THE SAMO TRIBE (AS DOES PRESIDENT LAMIZANA).  
KI-ZERBO IS 55 YEARS OLD.

B.

B. MACAIRE OUEDRAOGO IS THE CANDIDATE OF THE UNDD  
(UNION NATIONALE POUR LA DEFENSE DE LA DEMOCRATIE)  
WHICH BROKE AWAY FROM THE FORMER MAJORITY PARTY  
UDV-RDA EARLIER THIS YEAR AND HAS THE BACKING OF  
FOREMER PRESIDENT MAURICE YAMEOGO. MACAIRE OUEDRAOGO  
HAS BEEN DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT  
BANK SINCE 1974 AND WAS PREVIOUSLY PRESIDENT OF THE  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF BOBO DIOULASSO. HE IS A  
CHRISTIAN AND A MEMBER OF THE MOSSI TRIBE. HE IS ABOUT  
40 YEARS OLD AND BELONGED TO THE SO-CALLED "GROUP  
OF 12" WHICH VAINLY TRIED TO BRING YOUNGER LEADERSHIP  
TO THE UDV-RDA BEFORE THE UNDD WAS FORMED.

C. JOSEPH OEUDRAOGO, FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL  
ASSEMBLY, IS RUNNING AS AN INDIVIDUAL CANDIDATE AND  
NOT AS THE REPRESENTATIVE OF HIS PARTY,  
THE UDV-RDA, WHICH HAS ENDORSED THE CANDIDACY OF  
PRESIDENT LAMIZANA. JOSEPH OEUDRAOGO IS AN OLD RDA  
POLITICIAN WHO PLAYED A LEADING ROLE IN THE VOERTHROW  
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OF FORMER PRESIDENT MAURICE YAMEOGO AND WHO WAS LARGELY  
RESPONSEIBE FOR THE CHAOTIC SITUATION, IN DECEMBER 1973 AND  
JANUARY 1974, WHICH PROMPTED PRESIDENT LAMIZANA TO DISMISS  
THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND REVOKE THE CONSTITUTION.  
OEUDRAOGO IS A CHRISTIAN AND A MEMBER OF THE MOSSI TRIBE.  
HE IS 59 YEARS OLD.

3. COMMENT: PRESIDENT LAMIZANA HAS OFTEN SAID THAT HE WOULD  
BE A CANDIDATE FOR THE PRESIDENCY IF ALL THE POLITICAL  
PARTIES AGREED TO SUPPORT HIM. HE NOW HAS THE SUPPORT  
OF FIVE PARTIES, INCLUDING THE MOST PRIMINENT UDV-RDA,  
BUT IS RUNNING AS AN INDIVIDUAL CANDIDATE.. ALTHOUGH  
THE CANDIDACY OF JOSEPH OEUDRAOGO MAY DRAW MANY RDA  
VOTES AWAY FROM LAMIZANA, THE PRESIDENT MUST BE  
CONFIDENT THAT HE WILL WIN AN ABSOLUTE MAJUJITY ON THE  
FIRST BALLOT ON MAY 14. IT IS GENERALLY BELIEVED THAT  
LAMIZANA HAS THE SUPPORT OF THE TRADITIONAL CHIEFS  
WHO REMAIN VERY INFLUENTIAL IN THE RURAL AREAS. GRAHAM

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** Z  
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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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